

**Section 810 of ANILCA Public Hearings  
application for exception by  
Amoco of seasonal drilling**

**Nuiqsut**

**1986**

1 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
2 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 110  
3 Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
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10 TESTIMONY ON THE SECTION 810 OF ANILCA PUBLIC HEARINGS  
11 APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION BY UNOCAL OF SEASONAL DRILLING

12 September 12, 1986

13 NUIQSUT, ALASKA  
14  
15

16 ROBERT BROCK  
17 Minerals Management Service  
18 Anchorage, Alaska

19 INTERPRETER: DELBERT REXFORD  
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22  
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25 AURORA COURT REPORTING  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

Public Hearing - September 12, 1986

MR. BROCK: And I'm the representative from the Minerals Management Service in Anchorage, and I'd like to welcome you all to this hearing. Especially on the fact that it is a very short notice that we gave you on this hearing.

And I'd also like to thank the North Slope Borough's help in setting this up. We called Mr. Matumiak (ph) and between him and his staff they did us a real good job in getting the word out to you people here in Nuiqsut so that we could get this hearing set up.

With me, I think probably most of you have met him, is Jeff Walker from our office in Anchorage, and Helen Armstrong. The formal part of this hearing will be recorded. And if somebody wants to ask questions later on we will go off the record of the public hearing and have a question and answer period following the public hearing. But during the public hearing part of it it will be strictly a testimony type process in effect.

First I'd like to make a few remarks on this. On September 8, 1986 Union Oil Company, commonly referred to as UNOCAL, submitted a request to the Minerals Management Service for an exception to the seasonal drilling stipulation. The seasonal drilling stipulation was in

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1 effect on all leases resulting from the Sale No. 87,  
2 Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease Sale. The exception will  
3 allow drilling during the whale migration. Which, by the  
4 way, started I believe it was the day before yesterday was  
5 when they declared the whale migration for this year.

6 Minerals Management Service, our office, prepared an  
7 environmental assessment and a special analysis of the  
8 effects on subsistence use which is a requirement of the  
9 Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act, commonly  
10 referred to as ANILCA. We prepared an analysis on the  
11 subsistence activities near UNOCAL's Hammerhead site.  
12 There's a map in each one of those packets that was handed  
13 out, if you'd care to look at it.

14 We found the approval of the exception would have no  
15 significant effect in the environment according to the  
16 National Environmental Policy Act. However, we did find  
17 that there was a potential significant restriction on  
18 subsistence uses under ANILCA. The Hammerhead site is  
19 located 120 miles northeast from Nuiqsut and about 12  
20 miles straight north of Flaxman Island.

21 According to the data collected over the past 20  
22 years there is a recorded strike of a whale within three  
23 miles of the location at Hammerhead. The measuring stick  
24 which we use under ANILCA is extremely low and the slight  
25 chance that drilling activity may cause a whale to be

1 inaccessible causes the determination of a significant  
2 restriction of subsistence use.

3 It is anticipated that the possibility of such a  
4 restriction occurring on the Bowhead whale harvest is  
5 extremely low. Based on other studies it is doubtful that  
6 whales more than two miles from the drill site will be  
7 affected at all. If such whales are deflected such a  
8 deflection would be more than a mile or two.

9 Section 810 of ANILCA requires that if such a finding  
10 of significant restriction is made a public hearing will  
11 be held in the vicinity involved. That is what we're here  
12 tonight for is to hold that public hearing. The purpose  
13 of this hearing is to receive your views and comments and  
14 suggestions of the possible significant subsistence  
15 restrictions.

16 We have copies, and I believe we've passed them all  
17 out, of the 810 analysis for anybody that wishes to have  
18 one. Go ahead and keep the one that we passed out to you.  
19 An official verbatim transcript will be made of this  
20 hearing. Everything that is spoken here in the hearing,  
21 while the hearing is in session, will be recorded. Copies  
22 of this transcript will be available through a court  
23 reporting service, Aurora Court Reporting, 329 F Street,  
24 Suite 206, Anchorage 99501. Their telephone number is  
25 276-4188. Minerals Management Service will not distribute

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1 copies of the verbatim transcript.

2 Any presentation that you make we would like you to  
3 come up and sit in one of these two chairs right here so  
4 that we can be sure and hear you and get you recorded.  
5 You should be relevant and to the point, and speakers will  
6 only be asked questions by us here at the table if we  
7 need to clarify a point that you've made. And that's not  
8 to be interpreted that we've made up our mind one way or  
9 the other of what the decision should be. With that I  
10 would like to ask our translator to translate this. And  
11 then following that I'm going to ask UNOCAL to make a  
12 short statement of what their proposal is so that you  
13 understand exactly what they're proposing that will take  
14 place during the whale migration.

15 MR. REXFORD: (Translation of Mr. Brock's  
16 opening statement) Is that it?

17 MR. BROCK: That's it.

18 MR. REXFORD: What was the last part that you  
19 spoke about? That was not on this script. After you did  
20 this thing you said a few words.

21 MR. BROCK: About these things being available?  
22 I don't remember what I said.

23 MR. REXFORD: (Translation of Mr. Brock's  
24 statement) I'll turn this over to you.

25 MR. BROCK: I would like to ask UNOCAL then to

1 give a short presentation of what the proposal is so  
2 everybody has a chance to hear that rather than me just  
3 repeat it. Would you please?

4 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

5 MR. BROCK: No, just spell your name if you  
6 would, when you start, so that the person transcribing the  
7 report will be sure to get it.

8 MR. REXFORD: I'd like to say what he said.  
9 (Translation)

10 MR. TABLER: My name is Kevin Tabler and I'm with  
11 Union Oil Company of California, known as UNOCAL. With me  
12 here tonight I brought Dave Yesling. And Dave if you'll  
13 just raise your hand. Dave is with Shell Western E&P. He  
14 is their senior environmental engineer. To his right is  
15 Vernon Row (ph), he is UNOCAL's district drilling  
16 superintendent who will be in charge of our operations out  
17 there. Seated behind him is Roy Roberts who is our  
18 environmental engineer locally for UNOCAL. I'm a land  
19 management engineer. In the audience is Bill Brower, who  
20 is a production foreman. Most of you probably know who  
21 Bill is. He's with us here tonight, too.

22 Very briefly I'd like to outline what our request is.  
23 It's to acquire an exemption to exception to Stipulation  
24 Four which is a stipulation attached to the oil and gas  
25 lease that we jointly acquired with AMOCO, Shell, and

1 Union.

2 Currently, as most of you are aware, there is a well  
3 being drilled out in Beaufort Sea. It's known as the  
4 Corona Well, which is operated by the SWEPI group. And  
5 what our request is is that they're about to finish that  
6 operation. And our request is is that we move that same  
7 drill ship over to the Hammerhead location.

8 And Hammerhead is a well that was drilled last year  
9 by Union Oil Company. And continue drilling during the  
10 whale migration.

11 MR. REXFORD: Could we stop so that we could  
12 translate?

13 MR. BROCK: Let him translate.

14 MR. REXFORD: (Translation of UNOCAL statement)

15 MR. TABLER: This stipulation before that I made  
16 reference to wherein we're asking for an exemption, of  
17 course, does prohibit the drilling during the whale  
18 migration.

19 However, this will be the first chance that we will  
20 have, if granted this exception, to enter into a  
21 research program which will study the possible or  
22 potential effects of drilling during the whale migration  
23 and see what, if any, impacts there are on the migration  
24 itself.

25 The plan would be to move as soon as possible, as

1 soon as the drilling is completed at the Corona prospect.  
2 We would anticipate that it would take, we'd hope to have  
3 it completed within 20 days. We're anticipating that  
4 possible start-up would be September 20th. With that I  
5 really don't have any more.

6 MR. REXFORD: (Translation of UNOCAL statement)  
7 If I missed something, Maggie, or Bennie or anyone that's  
8 aware of issues that I miss I think it would be good to  
9 clarify that. That way we get full participation.

10 MR. TABLER: This operation would be conducted by  
11 the same drilling contractor which we have currently  
12 working on the program out at the Corona prospect now,  
13 utilizing the same. Of course we'd be operating under the  
14 same stipulations and conditions which were imposed upon  
15 Shell in their operations. I think that's maybe all I  
16 have to say.

17 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

18 MR. REXFORD: (Translation of UNOCAL statement)  
19 I didn't introduce your quest. You had done that.

20 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, do you have  
21 any comments that you'd like to start off with? Could I  
22 get you to come up to the table so we can be sure and get  
23 you recorded, please.

24 MR. SIMMONDS: (Testimony in Inupiat)

25 MR. BROCK: Could I get you to spell your name to

1 be sure that I get it right on the written record?

2 MR. SIMMONDS: Yes; S-i-m-m-o-n-d-s. Do you want  
3 me to spell my first name, too?

4 MR. BROCK: Are you going to translate that to  
5 English?

6 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Mayor Simmonds has expressed  
7 that the community of Nuiqsut is in support of the North  
8 Slope Borough regulations that are presently ordinance and  
9 law that the oil industry should not proceed with the  
10 drilling during the migration of the whales. And that he  
11 encourages the community members to speak up in this  
12 public hearing so that they can express their concerns so  
13 that the drilling should not occur during the migration of  
14 the whales. And he encourages the community citizens to  
15 participate to that effect.

16 MR. BROCK: Can I ask one question? Is that  
17 any time during the migration is what you said, or?  
18 Because the State has said 50 percent. Is he saying  
19 any time during the migration? Is that the point you're  
20 making?

21 MR. SIMMONDS: What was that?

22 MR. BROCK: Is your point that you don't want any  
23 drilling at all during any time of the migration, or just  
24 up to a certain -- like I believe that there's been some  
25 agreements on 50 percent of the migration.

1 MR. SIMMONDS: Until the migration is halfway  
2 through.

3 MR. BROCK: I just wanted to make sure that I  
4 understood which one you were saying. Thank you.

5 MR. REXFORD: (Translation of Mr. Simmonds  
6 and Mr. Brock's statements)

7 MR. BROCK: Do we have somebody else that would  
8 like to testify? Don't be bashful.

9 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

10 MR. BROCK: Would you please spell your name when  
11 you start, sir, so I can be sure and get it right for the  
12 record?

13 FRANK LONG: My name is Frank Long. I have been  
14 a resident here for 13 years. And I think I would support  
15 the North Slope Borough's policy on not drilling during  
16 whale migration. Due to the fact that if they do Barrow  
17 won't get no whale this fall. They'll all go to Siberia.  
18 Maybe the Russians might get some whales but they won't  
19 help me none. Thank you.

20 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

21 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

22 MR. NAGEAK: Benjamin Nageak, N-a-g-e-a-k.

23 MR. BROCK: Would you repeat that for me?

24 MR. NAGEAK: N-a-g-e-a-k. The Acting Director  
25 for the North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife

1 Management. It's unfortunate that the people who are  
2 knowledgeable of the Bowhead whale migration are not here  
3 to present themselves. As you know they are out whaling.  
4 Out towards Flaxman Island and places in between.

5 I would like to ask a question. Do you have any  
6 plans to monitor the whales and their activities around  
7 the Hammerhead area?

8 MR. BROCK: We'll take that up just as soon as we  
9 close the meeting. We'll answer that question at that point.

10 MR. NAGEAK: I would just like to say that it's  
11 unfortunate that you can't hear the people, the whalers,  
12 who really know the activities of the Bowhead whale; that  
13 they're not here to present their case. And I'll have some  
14 more questions after the public hearing.

15 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

16 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

17 MR. BROCK: Sir?

18 MR. NALIKAK: My name is Ron Nalikak,  
19 N-a-l-i-k-a-k. I'm the Administrative Director for the  
20 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I am here representing  
21 the Whaling Commission on behalf of Arnold Brower, Junior,  
22 the Chairman of the Commission. And we'd like to go on  
23 record as saying that we oppose any down-hole activity  
24 until 75 percent of the Bowhead population has gone  
25 through.

1 And like Bennie, it's unfortunate that the whalers  
2 are not able to be here to testify on their own behalf,  
3 since they are the knowledgeable ones. We'd like to go on  
4 record as opposing down-hole activity until 75 percent is  
5 gone. Thank you.

6 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

7 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

8 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Is there anybody else  
9 that would like to testify or make a statement?

10 MR. REXFORD: (Translation) I could testify,  
11 too.

12 MR. BROCK: You can if you want to. In fact,  
13 you're more than welcome to.

14 MR. REXFORD: (Translation) Is this going to  
15 pick it up?

16 MR. BROCK: Yes, you can stay right there.

17 MR. REXFORD: First of all I will speak as a  
18 member of the whaling community, as a member of my  
19 father's whaling crew and not as a representative of the  
20 North Slope Borough.

21 I am in opposition of any activity, drilling  
22 activity, that would endanger the population in the areas  
23 that AMOCO, Shell, and Union proposed to do some ongoing  
24 activities during the migration of the whales.

25 And I support the comments that AEWC, Administrative

1 Director Ronald Nalikak stated, because we need assurance  
2 that there will be enough whales. That the migration, the  
3 pattern of the migration of the whales are not interrupted  
4 so that the routes are changed. And I speak as a resident  
5 and not as a representative of the North Slope Borough,  
6 which I am an employee of.

7 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

8 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Sir?

9 UNIDENTIFIED: If I want to ask you a question do  
10 I have to walk to the mike?

11 MR. BROCK: If it's a question can we hold it  
12 until we throw it open for questions and answers? Would  
13 that be okay?

14 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

15 MR. BROCK: Anybody else that would like to make  
16 a statement before we go off the record and go into a  
17 question and answer period?

18 MR. REXFORD: (Translation) I would like a  
19 clarification when you state "off the record". How do you  
20 interpret that?

21 MR. BROCK: The tape recorder won't be on and it  
22 won't be made part of the official transcript. Now if we  
23 want to go back on the record after we have a question and  
24 answer period -- in other words, I just don't want to make  
25 a long recording of all of the questions and answers. If

1 somebody wants to then we'll go back on the record to make  
2 a statement. I have no problem with that.

3 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

4 MR. BROCK: If there's no more statements at this  
5 point let's go off the record and we'll open it up to  
6 questions. Did you want to make a statement, sir?

7 MR. AHVAKANA: Yes.

8 MR. BROCK: Come up to the mike if you would,  
9 please? Please spell your name so I'll be sure and get  
10 it right.

11 MR. AHVAKANA: The name is Nelson Ahvakana,  
12 A-h-v-a-k-a-n-a. I'm the pastor of the Presbyterian  
13 church here and also a member of the City Council. I'm  
14 sorry to say that the representatives that should be here  
15 are not here at the present time because they're the ones  
16 that are being influenced by this hearing.

17 The village of Nuiqsut, ever since it moved to this  
18 area, this location, has been doing subsistence hunting,  
19 especially for whaling during the fall time. And because  
20 of the cost of the subsistence for whaling it's really  
21 hard for these people to try and to do this one-time thing  
22 which happens here during the fall time only.

23 I see that the industry is asking that these  
24 stipulations be waived so that they could go ahead and  
25 have their drilling completed prior to the freeze-up. I

1 think their point is well taken but at the same time this  
2 village is dependent upon our people going out and getting  
3 the whale, if it so happens that they are lucky.

4 They travel roughly about 70 miles just to do this.  
5 And they leave their families, their friends, their jobs  
6 to try and maintain the subsistence way of life within  
7 this village. This year there's been about four or five  
8 whaling crews that have gone out. They have just left  
9 recently and that location of where Hammerhead is being  
10 proposed is probably about the place where the migration  
11 route of the whale is.

12 And because of that and because of the hardship that  
13 the whalers will be getting, and is having right now  
14 because of the distances, my recommendation would be to  
15 follow the recommendation that the North Slope Borough had  
16 initially stipulated on this. And that if the direction  
17 is to be made so that -- if the judgment is made that the  
18 drilling be taken, I would recommend that what Mr. Nalikak  
19 had mentioned would be followed, and that is 75 percent.

20 Presently this village, and I don't believe there's  
21 ever been a monitoring system available to enhance as to  
22 how much whales would migrate through that area. That  
23 figure is not recorded. I don't believe because nobody  
24 knows how many whales would migrate through there. We're  
25 just picking up 75 percent. It may be 75 percent of just

1 a hypothetical thing of ten whales going through that  
2 route where our whalers would have the opportunity of  
3 trying to get what is being asked by this village, their  
4 quota.

5 Or it may be more than ten. We don't know. But 75  
6 percent of that is not much. And if the people or the  
7 industry could wait until such time that the whaling is  
8 not taking place because of weather, because of ice  
9 conditions, I believe that that would be the time when the  
10 drilling could take place.

11 Ever since I have moved to this village, the village  
12 of Nuiqsut, I've been told time after time that the  
13 industry, they had never listened to the plea of these  
14 people. I've been here for five years now and I'm  
15 beginning to believe what they're saying. I think it's  
16 about time that someone else that has the authority to  
17 make sure that these stipulations are honored, and applied  
18 just the way that we ourselves as residents of Nuiqsut are  
19 asked to follow through with their own stipulation that  
20 have been given to us. When it comes to subsistence I'm  
21 sure that a few days or a few weeks it wouldn't hurt to  
22 see to it that the drilling date be postponed.

23 I would recommend maybe around the 15th of October  
24 would be probably about the right time. Because at that  
25 time our people would be coming back then. Then if that

1 would be heard, I'm pleading for the whalers that are out  
2 presently, for the members of this village that cannot sit  
3 here and express their own concerns and the concerns of  
4 others. I'm pleading in behalf of these people. And I  
5 hope that what I say would have some weight so that the  
6 Minerals Management would make a determination accordingly  
7 in hearing the wishes of this village. Thank you very much.

8 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

9 MR. REXFORD: (Translation) That's a long one,  
10 Nelson. (Translation) Somehow I got ahead of myself on  
11 this. (Translation) I hope I didn't miss anything, Nelson.

12 MR. BROCK: Is there anybody else that would like  
13 to make a statement before we go into our questions and  
14 answers? (No response) Why don't we shut off the  
15 machines and if anybody's got any questions we'll try to  
16 answer them.

17 MR. REXFORD: I'll keep my tape on because it's  
18 for my records.

19 MR. BROCK: That's fine.

20 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

21 (Off Record)

22 (Question and Answer Session Off The Record)

23 MR. BROCK: We'll go back on the record and get  
24 that comment on the record.

25 MR. REXFORD: Mae Ahtuangularuk is one of the

1 residents here in Nuiqsut. The comments that she made is  
2 that -- boy, I hope I can remember it. I'll need some  
3 help from the audience that listened to the comments.

4 Why was there a rush for the, and Billy elaborated on  
5 the issue. Why was there a rush that when the members of  
6 the community who are influenced by the proposed activity  
7 are not here, and that a public hearing could be held  
8 earlier, August maybe, so that these things could be heard  
9 ahead of time. Well in advance so that there could be  
10 adequate input, and in comments made on the issue that we  
11 are discussing. And not to rush it down on the community.  
12 Because the comments tonight are limited because of the  
13 fact that those that are influenced by the potential  
14 decision are not here to make comments.

15 Also, for many years she's been a resident here. And  
16 in those years it has been very hard to live in the  
17 community because of the cost of having to heat their  
18 homes and because of the hardship of employment  
19 opportunities. And it's been a long time since Prudhoe  
20 Bay has been developed and that there should be ways to  
21 accommodate a cost effective means of providing alternate  
22 energy sources for the community so that they don't have  
23 to go through the hardship year in and year out.

24 They are experiencing hardship. The people of Barrow  
25 are living in luxury compared to the hardship that they

1 live through. The oil industry has never accommodated  
2 their needs to provide some alternate energy source, even  
3 though they're right next door to the community of  
4 Nuiqsut. Those things have been discussed numerous times  
5 and they have never been adhered to.

6 And it's a hardship to live here. She would like to  
7 help the residents because she is concerned. And at times  
8 when they go into other communities, for example, Barrow.  
9 It's hard for them to be in Barrow for a long time because  
10 it's not a very comfortable feeling to be over there  
11 because the atmosphere is not right because they're  
12 staying at friends or relatives that may not make them  
13 feel comfortable.

14 But the main point is the oil industry has developed  
15 so rapidly and yet Nuiqsut is so close to the development,  
16 why has not the oil industry accommodated the energy need  
17 to make the community an easier place to live in. Because  
18 it's so hard to heat the homes. It's so hard for economic  
19 employment opportunities, and that's a concern that she  
20 has. And she's speaking now because these are concerns  
21 that she's got that they've experienced since the  
22 re-establishment of the community.

23 Why does not the oil industry provide an alternate  
24 energy source so that life here in Nuiqsut could be made  
25 easier. And I hope that I haven't missed anything.

1 MS. KUNAKUNANA: (Testimony in Inupiat)

2 MR. BROCK: Could you spell her name first?

3 MR. REXFORD: Sara Kunakune, K-u-n-a-k-u-n-e. I  
4 think.

5 MS. KUNAKUNANA: N-a-n-a, Kunakunana. Mrs.  
6 Kunakunana would like to express her desire to contribute  
7 to the betterment of the people here in Nuiqsut because  
8 she is fond of the people here. And that because of that  
9 bond she would like to express her concerns.

10 She has pointed out that Hammerhead is in the area  
11 where the migration is located. She states that from past  
12 experience of mushing, boating, and hunting, and trapping  
13 in those areas. And she is concerned that the development  
14 in Prudhoe Bay, there are wellheads that are tapped and  
15 left and not produced. That is a concern that why is it  
16 if there are wellheads that are just tapped and in  
17 reserve they're being developed. Instead the oil  
18 industry is pursuing to go offshore.

19 Have the oil wells in Prudhoe Bay depleted to the  
20 point where it is necessary to go offshore in the  
21 Hammerhead area. This is a concern she expresses. And  
22 the hardship of the whaling crews that are out there that  
23 they experience. It's hard for them to go out and go  
24 whaling.

25 And for the last three seasons a whale has not been

1 caught by this community. That is a concern. They have  
2 very strongly gone out hoping that they will be successful  
3 in hunting, but for three years they have not been  
4 successful. It is this desire that she wishes to express  
5 to the representatives here that if there's oil wells that  
6 are just tapped in Prudhoe Bay have they depleted to the  
7 point where it is necessary to go out on the offshore to  
8 keep drilling if those oil wells are depleted.

9 I think I might have missed some. I think that's the  
10 core of her comments. But she states that from  
11 experience from hunting, trapping in the Flaxman Island  
12 area, she notices that this is the migration route of the  
13 whales and that's a concern to her. I think that's pretty  
14 much what she stated. I may have missed a few points.

15 MR. BROCK: Go ahead, sir.

16 MR. NAGEAK: My name is Benjamin P. Nageak, I'm  
17 from Barrow. I would like to restate my position on my  
18 support on the North Slope Borough's position on keeping  
19 Stipulation Number Four until 50 percent of the whales  
20 have migrated through the drilling site areas.

21 And what I was going to say, it just completely left  
22 my mind. Maybe it will come back to me.

23 MR. BROCK: All right.

24 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

25 MS. ERICKLOOK: (Testimony in Inupiat)

1 MR. REXFORD: Bessie Ericklook,  
2 E-r-i-c-k-l-o-o-k. She would like to reflect back on the  
3 times that Thomas Napaleak (ph) told her a story about one  
4 of the whaling seasons that occurred.

5 And on the crew was a young person that followed.  
6 And because of having to travel so far and having to,  
7 because of the elements of nature, they had hardly any  
8 food to eat. Because of Napaleak's desire to keep that  
9 young boy in good spirit it was very difficult for  
10 Napaleak to keep that young boy's spirit going.

11 And so the whole crew had to ration their food to  
12 keep that young boy's spirit going because of the  
13 elements. And these are the hardships of the whaling  
14 conditions that they face. They go through these  
15 hardships even if they catch a whale or don't catch a  
16 whale. And when they bring back the whale it's very hard  
17 for them because they must travel with that whale for a  
18 long, long travel. And because of the elements, fog, or  
19 weather conditions, because of that long travel sometimes  
20 that meat spoils. And that is one of the hard conditions  
21 that we have to face with every year.

22 We experience these in our desire to get our food,  
23 our nutritional needs during the whaling season. I would  
24 like to ask the oil industry to wait just for a little  
25 while so that our whalers can go out and hunt the whale,

1 even if they're not successful.

2 I am not very knowledgeable in hunting the whale but  
3 I know from the stories that it is very difficult for the  
4 crews to be out there. Sometimes literally rationing food  
5 to almost a point of starvation. And those are the  
6 comments I'd like to leave with the representatives here.  
7 I'm sorry it's kind of hard to interpret this because of  
8 the experiences. And those are the concerns that she's  
9 got.

10 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Does anybody like to make  
11 a statement? Sir.

12 MR. NAGEAK: It came back to me. My name is  
13 Benjamin P. Nageak again. I just wanted to restate what I  
14 said during the closed session on the monitoring program.  
15 To have the industry, whoever you're contracting with, to  
16 go ahead and at the same time study what the effects of  
17 the Bowhead whale on the -- to monitor the whales to see  
18 how they react to certain types of noise during the  
19 drilling operations. Whether it be icebreaking movement,  
20 drilling activities, and keep a log of what the activities  
21 are during the monitoring program.

22 And you'll be listening to the whales and to be  
23 listening to what the noise levels are where the  
24 hydrophones are. Thank you.

25 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Anybody else have a

1 statement to make?

2 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible-off microphone)

3 MR. REXFORD: I think it would be good to write.

4 MR. YESLING: My name is Dave Yesling, I'm with  
5 Shell Western. With regard to the statement that  
6 expressed the concern of the hardships of the whalers from  
7 this community. I'd like to point out that this year there  
8 is a cooperative program that has been developed between  
9 the whalers and the oil industry which in effect speaks  
10 directly to the concern of hardship.

11 And that is that the industry will be providing, and  
12 is in the process of providing a stash, a cache, of  
13 emergency provisions on Cross Island for the whalers  
14 should there be an incidence of emergency where their  
15 provisions as they have provided for their hunt should be  
16 depleted.

17 Further, there is an allowance which was worked out  
18 with the federal government that if there is a whale  
19 struck, killed, at a point where the whalers would have  
20 difficulty getting it back to the shore in time to prevent  
21 spoilage, we the industry, if we have a vessel available  
22 can assist in the recovery of the whale. Getting it back  
23 to shore at the earliest opportunity. Owing to the fact  
24 that our vessels have the size that we could move it  
25 perhaps at a quicker rate.

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1 Further, once there is a whale beached and the  
2 butchering has taken place, if this is in a location that  
3 is not in the vicinity of a village; further, we can  
4 participate in the transport of that whale meat and muktuk  
5 and so on back to the village.

6 So the point is that there has been, this year, an  
7 effort developed that we will address a concern that was  
8 expressed here tonight and it is an effort that includes  
9 both the oil industry and the whalers. And Susie Kasak  
10 (ph)?

11 MR. REXFORD: Susie Kusak.

12 MR. YESLING: She is the person in this village  
13 that is associated with the coordination program.

14 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

15 MR. BROCK: Any other comments before we close  
16 the hearing?

17 MR. REXFORD: I'd like to make a comment. My  
18 name is Delbert Rexford. First of all I want to make it  
19 very clear that I have no intentions to delete any  
20 translation or coerce any interpretations that may be  
21 done. And I feel that this experience has given me a lot  
22 of awareness of the existing problems, and I do hope that  
23 the community understands my position as one, a whaling  
24 member; and two, as an employee of the Borough. I find  
25 this one of the most difficult tasks that I have

1 undertaken and I want to express my deepest regards to the  
2 community in their effort to make their community a better  
3 place to live, and by expressing their concerns and  
4 voicing their opinions on matters. And this has been  
5 rather difficult but I have enjoyed it. And it's an  
6 experience that I'll treasure for a long time.

7 (Translation)

8 (Applause)

9 UNIDENTIFIED: (Testimony in Inupiat)

10 MR. REXFORD: She wishes to express her  
11 appreciation for the meeting that has been held and the  
12 efforts that we have made to clarify the issue here. And  
13 she has a better understanding of the issue. However, it  
14 is also noteworthy that it is very difficult to live a  
15 subsistence type of life. And sometimes that many years  
16 go by before any successful whale hunts occur. And she'd  
17 like to express her appreciation for this meeting.

18 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Mr. Long, I assume you  
19 have a comment.

20 MR. LONG: Yes. Again my name is Frank Long.  
21 I'd like to comment on the whale hunt. In the past, I  
22 think it was 1977 and '79 I had been out with the whaling  
23 crew. And the first time we went out we didn't have any  
24 success in getting any whale due to ice problems out  
25 toward Flaxman Island.

1       And we had to go all the way to Barter Island and  
2       sighted nothing. And it's very difficult. If you ever try  
3       it, it's some sort of experience that you want to try one  
4       of these days.

5       In the second trip we was stranded out at the DEW line  
6       site called Pole Three. It's halfway between here and  
7       Barter Island. And you don't only get stranded there due  
8       to weather conditions, you get iced in. And in the first  
9       week of October is when the ice starts. It won't wait.  
10      It won't wait for you to get out of there. It just gets  
11      packed in.

12      But my feeling is I've been hunting all my life, I've  
13      been whaling over in Barrow, I've been out over here and  
14      you have to go a far distance. You have to go at least  
15      300 miles, maybe five, 600 mile round trip. And it costs  
16      a lot of money. Besides the barrel of gas here, it's  
17      pretty close to \$200.00 a drum. Out here we don't know  
18      anything about inflation. We pay the price of \$2.55 a  
19      gallon for gasoline. Whereas you go to Prudhoe Bay it's  
20      only \$.95 a gallon and elsewhere it's cheaper. It gets  
21      cheaper the further you go.

22      My major concern is to let you know it is very, very  
23      hard to go on one of these whaling activities, or whatever  
24      you want to call them. And I sure hope they have a pretty  
25      good season this year. Thank you very much for coming to

1 this meeting.

2 MR. BROCK: Thank you, sir. I would like to  
3 thank everybody for participating and I'd like to thank  
4 you, Delbert, for taking on this difficult job of  
5 translating because I do know that it's extremely  
6 difficult to remember all that stuff that  
7 is being said. And I would also like to compliment you on  
8 your new hall. The last time I was here it was not this  
9 -- we were in the older building, and this is an extremely  
10 nice hall you have here now.

11 So I would like to thank everybody for coming and I  
12 hope that -- we'll take everything into consideration you  
13 said and we'll try to get a decision out shortly. Thank you.

14 MR. REXFORD: (Translation)

15 \* \* \* END OF PUBLIC HEARING \* \* \*

16 September 12, 1986

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALASKA )  
 ) ss.  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT )

I, Audrey Krovchuk, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify that I correctly reported the within-entitled matter to the best of my ability and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcription of the oral testimony in the proceedings had in the said matter from tapes supplied by Minerals Management Service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 15th day of October, 1986.



My commission expires 10/4/87

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